known as Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC). The works undertaken were at Sarnath, Kushinagar, Piprahawa and Sravasti in Uttar Pradesh and Bodhgaya, Nalanda, Rajgir and Vaishali in Bihar. The project was completed at a cost of Rs. 251.05 crores in December, 1998.

Loan assistance was availed from the Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund of Japan (now known as Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) for the Ajanta Ellora Conservation and Tourism Development Project (Phase I) in Maharashtra State. The Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund loan assistance was to the tune of 3745 million Japanese Yen. The project was completed at a cost of Rs. 127.50 crores in March, 2002. The places covered were Ajanta and Ellora in Maharashtra.

Japan Bank for International Cooperation has agreed in principle to provide loan assistance (Japanese Yen 7331 million) for Ajanta Ellora Conservation and Tourism Development Project Phase-II. The locations to be covered are Ajanta, Ellora, Pithalkhora, Aurangabad, Daulatabad, Patnadevi, Lonar, Nasik, Pune, Elephanta caves, Bhaja and Bedsa, Shivneri, Malshej and Kolvan in Maharashra.

Launching of Duty Free Shops

2763. SHRI SURENDRA LATH: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the India Tourism Development Corporation (ITDC) has launched its duty free shops;

(b) if so, the Airports/Hotels where ITDC proposed to launch its duty free shops;

(c) the steps taken by ITDC in that regard; and

(d) the main objections of launching such shops?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir, ITDC is presently operating 39 outlets comprising of 37 Duty Free Shops at ten airports, one Duty Paid Shop at Ashok Hotel and a Tax Free Shop at New Delhi.

(c) The measures taken by ITDC for successful operation of Duty Free Shops include rationalization of prices, renovation of shops and aggressive marketing.

(d) The main objectives of setting up Duty Free Shops have been to offer merchandise of global and Indian brands to international passengers and earn precious foreign exchange for the country.

Protected monuments in Gujarat

2764. SHRI AHMED PATEL: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the monument-wise number of Central protected monuments with Archaeological Survey of India in Gujarat;

(b) whethr it is a fact that many of these monuments are decaying and are in neglected state;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for their neglect; and

(d) tha remedial measures Government propose to take in this regarad?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) There are 201 centrally protected monuments in the State of Gujarat under the jurisdiction of the Archaeological Survey of India.

(b) No, Sir. The centrally protected monuments in the State of Gujarat are maintained in good shape. Conservation, chemical preservation and environmental development of these monuments are taken up as per the requirement on site subject to availability of man-power and resources. Steps are also taken to provide tourist infrastructure and face-lift to the monuments in the perspective plan prepared for the comprehensive conservation and development of some of the centrally protected monuments under Xth Five Year Plan.

(c) and (d) Question do not arise.